THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR.

[ESTABLISHED 1840.]

"*Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you*" (MATT. 5: 43, 44).

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INVESTIGATE.

WHICHEVER you may be, high-born or low-born, religious or irreligious, refined or rude, this is the word for you. Indeed, I would that it passed as a watchword from mouth to mouth throughout the millions of our race.

But now you ask, "Investigate what?" Investigate the stability of the foundation on which you build your hopes for eternity. Are you ready to meet your Maker? Investigate that you may ascertain exactly how you stand at present in reference to God. Ascertain where you came from, why you are here upon this earth, and where you are to go after you leave this probation. Investigate and find out whether God has spoken from the eternal heavens in these days, and has again communicated to men on earth a knowledge of His divine purposes, and of the principles and laws which will ensure the temporal welfare and salvation and the eternal exaltation of those who will receive and obey them. Investigate whether God has broken the silence of ages, and restored His gospel and authority to the earth, with all the ancient gifts, powers and blessings. Investigate whether a channel of communication has been opened up between earth and heaven, and whether the infinite treasures of truth and power are in these days accessible to all who receive and obey the true and everlasting gospel. These propositions are of tremendous importance to all ranks and races of men. Surely it is of vital interest to all the world to know the absolute truth of the matter.

Picture to yourself a throng of ten thousand human beings starting together on life's journey. You and I are among that number. Ten years elapse, and at least one third have gone. The years roll on and only half are now upon the road. The ranks

thin with increasing rapidity, many are growing weary and lie down to rise no more. At three-score and ten a brave band of five hundred struggle on. At ninety forty tottering persons—a mere handful—remain. Year after year they fall. Perhaps one, a lonely marvel, lingers till the century is over. We look again, and the journey of life is finished for all that company.

And then eternity. What does eternal life mean to you? Make your calling and your election sure. Do not turn aside and refuse to investigate this. If you do, whatever your profession may be, we shall become suspicious that there is something wrong. When the heads of large business houses manifest a strange aversion to having their books examined by competent accountants, they always make people uneasy as to their financial stability.

If a true believer, you can welcome it. Investigation will only prove afresh the security of your blessing. If an unbeliever, now is the time to find out your position in regard to life and salvation.

How shall we set about deciding it? The only reliable way is to call in the law and the testimony, the great authority on such subjects—the word of God—and thankfully welcome the light that it sheds on the mysteries of life and our future destiny. Like the witnesses of the true and living God in other ages, the Latter-day Saints in these days refer all people to the holy scriptures for confirmation of their teachings, and urge those who desire to know the truth to seek for an individual testimony from the Divine Author of the same. It is impossible to give any stronger evidence of their truth and sincerity, or to submit their claims to a higher or more decisive test than by inviting all who hear them to investigate and seek for a testimony as to the truth of the matter from that God whom they claim to represent.

I am reminded of the X-rays, now so largely used by the medical profession. They possess, as you doubtless know, the peculiar property of being able to throw light on things beneath the surface. By their power flesh and blood become almost transparent, the bones and any foreign substance embedded in the flesh become clearly seen. Now, what the X-rays will do for the body, the word of God will do for your soul.

You may be respectable, upright, moral, honest and religious, but if you do not live up to and comply with the laws of God, you cannot expect to reap the harvest in store for the faithful who have complied with the same. There are certain laws and commandments given to us to obey, and if we yield obedience to them we are to be rewarded accordingly. The whole universe is governed by laws, and upon obedience to them certain blessings are predicated, and, if we are going to gain the blessings of the Lord, we have to obey His laws. It profiteth nothing to break or violate a law of God; but it profiteth everything to yield obedience to that law. There are essential qualifications for citizenship in the kingdom of God, and in order to serve God more intelligently

you must become better acquainted with His laws. If you live up to the teachings, you will know whether the doctrine pertaining to life and salvation be true, and you must receive and obey the gospel in order to gain salvation, for there is no other way into heaven, or by which man can be saved. You must get the spirit of learning; learn the gospel and search out these laws and commandments, which are given us in order that we may gain our salvation and exaltation in the kingdom of God. A man is saved no faster than he gains knowledge, and he cannot be saved in ignorance. Knowledge does away with darkness, suspense and doubt; for these cannot exist where knowledge is; for in knowledge there is power. God has more power than all other beings because He has greater knowledge. If you have a sincere desire to find out the truth, search the scriptures in the spirit of learning and not faultfinding, not to pick out flaws and contradictions and lose yourself in mysteries. It will unfold to you the very plan and purpose of life—the reason for which worlds and men exist. The purpose of the gospel is to lead us back to God, improved by the knowledge and experience we have gained.

There is no truth in any department of life that is without the pale of the gospel, no knowledge that is beyond its reach. Its truth is the sum of all existence, "the knowledge of things that have been, that are, and that will be." God is truth, and His gospel is the plan whereby we may be saved in His presence. You should accept all truth no matter from what source it comes. Truth will win its own way. It mattereth not whether the doctrine or principle is popular or unpopular. You should always maintain a true principle, even if you stand alone in it; for truth is truth no matter where it is found.

There is but one gospel, simple and pure. Now this gospel of God's Son is to-day preached unto the people; it is for them to investigate its claims, accept or reject it. But they must be most careful in their judgment upon it or they may, like the Pharisee, "reject the counsel of God." We are all to be judged according to the deeds done in the flesh. To reject this gospel without investigation would be foolish indeed, and all people who have heard it will be judged according to their actions concerning it. The Apostle Paul says, "Prove all things, hold fast to that which is good." Prove and investigate for yourselves the gospel, but go down to the bottom of its doctrine and probe until you reach its bedrock, then you will find its foundation is sure, for it is the "power of God unto salvation" to those who obey its commands. Search into its doctrines; but you cannot search into them without searching the scriptures. "Search the scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life, for they are they which testify of me." Many may search the scriptures and still not have "eternal life." You must "search the scriptures," find that which is true, and yield obedience to it, in order to obtain "eternal life;" and in the

search and investigation of this gospel of the kingdom, the investigator will find a perfect system of moral and spiritual philosophy, the perfection of beauty and goodness and power, and a harmonious blending of justice and mercy, of truth and love; in fact, a plan whereby eternal life may come within the reach of all those seeking after truth and righteousness; but in this probation it is not given to man to comprehend all the force and beauty, the excellence and power of the gospel. These things will be fully learned only in eternity.

Can anyone tell the length, breadth or height of a building without a rule, test the quality of metals without a criterion, or point out the movements of the planetary system without a knowledge of astronomy? Certainly not! So it is with the truths of the gospel. It is your duty to familiarize yourselves with the holy scripture, and search out and investigate these things which will ensure the temporal welfare and salvation and eternal exaltation of all people who will receive and obey its teachings.

It is the duty of all people to consider well and earnestly the declaration that God has revealed Himself to man in these days. Every person who has an adequate sense of the dignity and importance of life, and who desires to meet its duties and responsibilities in a way that will enable him to attain the highest destiny, should heed and investigate our message with a pure desire to know the truth, regardless of all consequences. The scriptures bear witness to the importance of heeding the inspired counsels of the authorized servants of the Lord, and of the chastisements and disasters that have overtaken those who have disregarded them in former ages. The verdict of the majority of mankind has in no age of the world been on the side of God and His truth. Those who endeavor to evade the responsibility of determining for themselves the truth or falsity of our testimony concerning these matters of life and salvation, by sheltering themselves behind public opinion, are acting very unwisely, for we shall all be held strictly to account for our failure to consider and obey the counsels and teachings of the authorized servants of the Lord. Every great truth has had to battle for recognition, and arguments and forces essentially similar have been arrayed against the work of the Lord in all ages of the world.

The Latter-day Saints proclaim an everlasting gospel, one that shall not only walk beside men through this life, but through all the ages that are to come. It is the doctrine that our Lord and Savior taught; this is the message given to the Latter-day Saints, and which they proclaim to the world. They call upon all men to repent, and do the will of God. They invite sincere seekers after truth everywhere. They present to the world an example of the marvelous power of the gospel they have obeyed. By their fruits they show its effects. A true system of theology would be of little efficacy among a people that did not live up to its tenets,

rites, and practices, and they show the fruits thereof in their moral, intellectual and every-day life. The gospel has solved the problem of a happy, prosperous and contented life, free from sin and sorrow, from poverty and idleness, from hatred and hypocrisy. The gospel of the Latter-day Saints is no narrow, contracted system; but is a broad and far-reaching religion, and contains the gospel of Jesus Christ in its simplicity and purity—the true plan of salvation—and consequently is responsible for the dissemination of this gospel throughout the whole world, and when properly taught and understood, it inculcates broad-mindedness, force and power. It makes intellectually broad and valiant men. It gives to men good, sound judgment in temporal and spiritual affairs. "It is Godlike; it is Christlike; it is broad, beautiful and grand. It reaches the whole of the human race from Adam, our father, down to the last person born on this globe. The heathen, the Christian, the Jew, the pagan, the Mohammedan, the infidel, the skeptic, the agnostic, all people, all races, all tongues, all tribes, all shall hear the gospel." It is the same to-day, yesterday and forever. The evidences are conclusive and cannot be controverted, and will stand the test of the most severe examination; had it not been so, the years of orthodox Christian attacks would have crushed it long ago. To-day it stands firm, like the "rock of ages." This Church of Christ is far-reaching, universal and boundless in its saving power. Hundreds of analogies and comparisons could be made showing wherein the belief and practice of the Latter-day Saints are in most perfect harmony with the gospel in Christ's day. Suffice it to say, however, that their doctrine and belief has been before the world for more than eighty years, during which time the combined and individual efforts of ministerial Christianity and man-made systems have, with the holy scriptures and science at their finger's ends, been unable to disprove the first principle, rite or practice of so wonderful and strange a faith as that of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It is beyond the intelligence of man to disprove the first principle of our faith and practice. We harmonize with the holy scriptures, and are in kindred touch with science and nature. We must be so or we could not be the Church of the Most High. We are not a contentious people, and we do not invite hasty discussions on useless topics; but at the same time we are ever ready and willing, with the truths of the gospel, to meet mankind upon any and all phases of theological or scientific research. If our system will not stand the rebuttal of the severest weighing in the balance it surely could not be the Church of Christ; but inasmuch as it is the Master's work, come to the earth by divine restoration, and founded upon the sure foundation of eternal truth, it will demonstrate to mankind that it is a truth that is mighty and will prevail.

These are reasons why it is worth your while to investigate and

embrace this gospel of the kingdom, and which is being promulgated by the Latter-day Saints throughout the length and breadth of the world, and which shall be preached to every nation, kindred, tongue and people, and then shall the end come. Therefore, let the ground of all your religious actions be obedience, examine not why it is commanded, but observe it because it is commanded, and help to advance and preach this everlasting gospel for the edification, elevation and salvation of our fellowmen. True obedience never procrastinates nor questions ill-advisedly. If you are humble, prayerful and diligent and seek the face of the Lord in faith and humility, you will not be disappointed, for He will smile upon you and give you success. Those who permit themselves to be guided in matters of eternal importance by the prevailing opinions of men, should carefully consider the following words of the Savior: "Enter ye in at the strait gate; for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matt. 7: 13-14).

Manchester. DAVID J. SHAW.

"MY DARLING."

THESE were the words a New York newspaper reporter saw in the unlikeliest place imaginable—on the dashboard of a huge Broadway truck. The truck was caught in a dense blockade, but the driver sat patiently waiting, while truckmen all about him were swearing or abusing their horses.

"Yes, mister," said the driver, in reply to the reporter's question, "I painted those words up there myself. I wanted to have them where I could see them all the time, to remind me of my promise to my little girl when she was dying. 'Father,' she said, 'I'm going to die, and I want you to promise me one thing, because it will make me so happy.' 'Yes,' said I, with tears running down my cheeks, 'I'll promise.' Then she looked me in the eyes so sweet, and said, 'O father, don't be angry, but promise me you'll never swear any more, nor whip your horses.' That's all there is about it, mister; and I've just put those words up here to remind me of my little girl when I'm tempted."

The young reporter passed on, with a mist in his eyes. He wrote the story out for his paper, just as it was told him, and thousands of hearts were touched and helped.

"A little child shall lead them." No one is too young to exert influence. We begin to lead others, appreciably, as soon as we have any character of our own. And there is a certain innocence of heart and purity and refinement of feeling, peculiar to youth, which affect older people more vitally and potently than we are accustomed to think.—SELECTED.

"IS PRAYER EFFECTUAL?"

UNDER the above heading an article was recently published discussing the efficacy of prayer. Ever since the world began mankind has prayed—for to pray is an instinct of humanity. Prayer is commanded as one of the most vital principles of the gospel, and without it we are helpless as true saints of God. We cannot work out our salvation without the assistance of this all-important principle. What is prayer?

"Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
Uttered or unexpressed;
The motion of a hidden fire
That trembles in the breast.

"Prayer is the burden of a sigh,
The falling of a tear,
The upward glancing of an eye,
When none but God is near."

The efficacy of prayer depends upon the spirit in which the prayer is uttered, and the righteous desires of the heart. Prayer is not for special occasions only; it is not intended solely for resort during sickness or other troubles. Make it part of your very existence. Get down on your knees every morning and thank the Lord for His goodness and mercy in bringing you safely through the perils and dangers of the night, and be equally thankful to Him at the close of the day for that same preservation throughout the day. If we do this, is it not reasonable and just to suppose that God will listen to our petitions in times of trouble?

The writer of the article already named, expressed the opinion that we ought not to trouble the Lord too much; but when difficulties arise, and our own strength and judgment is insufficient to cope with them, then we are to solicit the help of the Lord. But can we expect Him to answer our prayers when we approach Him only as a last recourse to help us out of our troubles? No! We must seek Him first, and ask Him to give us health and strength to live according to the gospel principles, and to cast aside those temptations which are continually strewing our pathway.

Furthermore, have faith that your prayers will be answered; do not pray in the same spirit as did the woman who asked the Lord one night that He would remove a hill which obstructed the view from her house, and who arose in the morning, and finding the hill still there, exclaimed, "There, I knew the Lord wouldn't take it away."

Brothers and sisters, go through life with a prayerful heart; study with a prayerful heart; and the Lord will bless you. Pray for others as well as for yourselves, and you may be assured that if you observe these principles, the possibility of apostacy will be remote. Have faith, then, and "Ask and ye shall receive."

Leicester. G. E. GENT.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1913.

EDITORIAL.

TO THE HARVESTERS.

LAST week we addressed a few words of greeting to the saints. To-day we write to the missionaries who are laboring in this part of the Lord's vineyard. We are now well started in the last quarter of the year, and it is quite possible to make this year's record equal the splendid record of former years, if we energetically prosecute the work we have in hand. Up to this time the records show a falling off quite below the average in many respects. If we shall not be chargeable with a deficit in labors performed at the end of nineteen hundred and thirteen, it will be because we redouble our energies for the remainder of the year.

We admonish you, brethren, to renew your efforts with all your might, and, with an earnest determination, endeavor to make this year's record one of the very best. The days are growing shorter, and if we accomplish our task with what credit we should, we must spend more hours in active missionary work.

Many are already looking forward to the holidays, with the expectation of ceasing their labors for a season. There is no objection to the elders enjoying a short respite; but prolonged discontinuance of missionary work for the purpose of engaging in holiday recreation ought to be discouraged, because it is detrimental to the elder, also to the cause of the Church. Days which offer an opportunity or an excuse for laying down our work, and weeks spent in traveling and visiting out of our appointed fields, should be less frequently sought. We should be devoting our time and attention to our missions, and leave most of our traveling and visiting to be done after we are released.

The time is approaching when quite a number of the harvesters will have finished their labors in the fields wherein they are now engaged. By reason of nearly two years' experience, they ought to be not only able to do, but be doing, their very best work. Occasionally an elder slackens his efforts during the last two or three months of his mission. This no elder should do. The last month of a missionary's stay in the field should be the banner month, and mark the period of greatest achievement in amount of work done and good accomplished.

We would impress upon all the elders that they are "*not doing time*" while on their missions. We are not in prison awaiting the

end of a sentence. We are out in the mission field, which is the great, broad world. The "truth has made us free," and it is our duty, and ought to be our joy to proclaim to the world the message of liberty and freedom from darkness, superstition and unbelief by which so many of our Father's children are now bound, and from which, through the grace of God, we have been delivered. The elder who has the spirit of his mission, and appreciates as he should the blessings of the gospel, will not be in too great a hurry to return home; but will be full of compassion towards his fellowmen, and have a sincere desire to bring them to see the light of truth without thought of time. There is no arbitrary term for missionary service. Such service terminates only upon receipt by a missionary of his release. His release will be sent to him when the Lord indicates that such is His will. Until then let every one of the harvesters labor with ever-increasing diligence and faith, taking no thought of "to-morrow, but only to-day."

There is no time for idleness; scarcely time for rest. "The fields are white already to harvest, therefore, let him who is called thrust in his sickle with his might, and reap while the day lasts, that he may treasure up for his soul everlasting salvation in the kingdom of God." Not a little part of the day; but "while the day lasts." If through the year we have sown good seed, and watered and nourished it with all care and diligence, the Lord surely will give the increase. Our labors when performed in faith and full purpose of heart, and with sincere desire, cannot be in vain. There must be a harvest, and it only remains for the harvesters to gather it. The gathering cannot be done by rules and regulations which place metes and bounds upon our activities, and hamper our freedom, or which prescribe that we shall work only part of the day.

Be instant in season and out of season, was the admonition of a former great missionary whose labors never ceased nor slackened while his life lasted, and who won many souls to the cause of Christ. Let us put you again in mind of the words of this same great missionary to one who, like you, was engaged in the ministry: "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. * * * give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee" (I. Tim. 4: 12-16). Preach the gospel, "not after the enticing words of man's wisdom," but according to the ability that God giveth.

We are not members of a trades union, subject to the censure of a "walking delegate" if we are discovered working a moment

overtime. We are the divinely-appointed servants of the Master whose displeasure will be incurred only as we become idle and neglect to garner into His barns the fruitage of His fields. What would be said of the harvester who, through indolence, allowed the ripened fruit to remain in the field to become dried and burned up by the rays of the sun, or to rot in the rain and the damp. It would be said that he was a slothful servant, worthy the punishment he must suffer during the season against which he had laid by no provision. Shall we who have been sent into the field, be less censurable and escape condemnation if we stand indifferently aside, while men are being consumed by the fierce fire of uncontrolled passions, or destroyed by sinful and immoral habits to which many yield, and some ignorantly?

Shall we be without responsibility if we sit supinely down while the devil gathers the harvest, and drags down to misery the souls of men through the medium of false doctrines and decaying creeds? Shall we hide our light in a lodge while men grope their way to hell in darkness? Let us be anxiously engaged in this good cause and do many things of our own free will and bring to pass much righteousness. And remember that "he that doeth not any thing until he is commanded, and receiveth a commandment with doubtful heart, and keepeth it with slothfulnesss, the same is damned." Go forth, therefore, without fear and with great faith and preach repentance; warn the wicked; and gather out of the world the honest in heart. See to it that no stain of the blood of men be found upon your garments, and that the life of no man be required at your hands. May we round up our shoulders, and work while the day lasts, for afterwards "cometh the night of darkness wherein there can be no labor performed." The Lord hath said that if we labor all our lives and bring but one soul to salvation our joy with that soul will be great in heaven. What possibilities for joy and happiness are within our reach, when by the help of the Lord, and through faithful and never-wearying efforts, we may meet in the "kingdom of heaven" with many such souls and rejoice together.

HYRUM M. SMITH.

PRESIDENT E. TAFT BENSON RELEASED.

ON Saturday, October 11th, 1913, President E. Taft Benson took passage on the s.s. *Mauretania* for New York, homeward bound. President Benson has been in the European mission field since March 12th, 1911, making his term of service here thirty-one months. He was at first assigned to the office of secretary of the mission, and performed the duties pertaining to that position to the entire satisfaction of the mission president, Elder Rudger Clawson, and to all others with whom his labors brought him into intimate

association. Upon the release of President Clawson, Elder Benson was called to take charge of the European mission. This was a marked manifestation of the confidence which the highest Church authorities reposed in him; and his management of the difficult and onerous business of his new position has been successful from the beginning. He visited the various missions on the Continent, and everywhere inspired the elders and saints with renewed courage and devotion to the cause of truth. He himself has given to the readers of the *Star* interesting accounts of his travels and labors there, and of the prospects of success for our work in Continental lands.

As a speaker President Benson was forceful, and always commanded the attention of every hearer. Socially he impressed all with whom he came in contact as a gentleman of refinement and culture. The mission, by his release and return to Zion, loses one of its ablest workers; but we doubt not that he will soon again be called to labor in some responsible position in the Church, and for his success in all the avocations of his life we wish him deserved success.

T. W. B.

Sudden Death.—From a private letter recently received from President Rudger Clawson, we learn that Elder William Rossiter, who was a prominent member of the Church in Salt Lake City, Utah, died very suddenly at that place on September 20th, 1913. He dropped down in the street, and expired just as he was being carried into his home. The cause of his death is not yet known to us.

MINUTES OF THE NEWCASTLE CONFERENCE.

THE Newcastle semi-annual conference was held on Sunday, October 5th, 1913, at the Westfield Hall, Gateshead, Newcastle. There were present: President Hyrum M. Smith of the European mission; President E. Taft Benson; President Cyril Duffin, Sister Rachel P. Duffin, and twenty traveling elders of the Newcastle conference.

The morning session commenced at ten o'clock by singing, "O, how lovely was the morning." Prayer was offered by President E. Taft Benson. Continued by singing, "When there's love at home." The Articles of Faith were given as a concert recitation, in which many of the children took part.

President Cyril Duffin spoke of the activities in the Sabbath school work, and of the results that are being derived from it.

Elder Francis Simpson said in later years we will look back to our Sunday school days, and remember the truths we were then taught. Nothing will have to be undone, and if we follow the instructions of our Sunday school teachers, we can never go astray.

The older pupils should set an example, and keep their bodies clean and pure, for they are temples of the Holy Spirit.

Sister Rachel P. Duffin said the world claims that apostles and prophets are not needed in this day and age; but scripture says they are (Eph. 4: 11). It was predicted that the laws and ordinances which God gave to man would be changed by transgression in the latter days (Isa. 24: 4-5). This prophecy has been fulfilled.

Sister Lizzie Ridge rendered a solo, "Joseph the Blest."

President E. Taft Benson said that among the several instances which afford evidence to prove that God and His Son are two distinct personages, he would mention one that occurred at the baptism of Jesus; another when Christ was transfigured, a third when the Savior first made His appearance to the Nephites, and again, when Joseph Smith saw both the Father and the Son in his first vision. They have each a body as we have; for God made man in His own image. Rejoiced in the gospel, and was desirous that his fellowman should know of it.

President Hyrum M. Smith was thankful to meet the saints and friends of the Newcastle conference. Said the gospel, if obeyed, would make us better men and women. We believe in the salvation of men's bodies as well as their spirits, for it has been revealed that the spirit and the body constitute the soul of man. Liked to see healthy children, who have bright minds and strong bodies, and to have them taught all that is good and true. Said nowhere could a body of men be found who are cleaner in their habits than the "Mormon" elders are. They are taught from youth to care for their bodies. Spoke of the Fast-day, and of the benefits derived in observing it.

Singing, "Sing we now at parting." Prayer by Elder Roscoe C. Merrill.

The afternoon session, at 2 o'clock, was commenced by singing, "Now let us rejoice in the day of salvation." Prayer by Elder David A. Robison.

Sister Rachel P. Duffin read the statistical report for the past six months, after which the general and local authorities were presented and unanimously sustained.

Elder George Duffin spoke on the literalness of the resurrection of the body (Ezek. 37: 1-17). Said the Savior was our pattern, and many saints had risen after He did (Matt. 27: 52-53). God has marked the way, and wants us to follow; but will not force any man to heaven.

Elder Roscoe C. Merrill said about two-thirds of the people of the world did not believe in Christ, and millions had died without baptism; but Christ has said we cannot enter the kingdom of God without baptism, and God in His mercy has provided a way that the living can be baptized for the dead. Paul understood this doctrine (I. Cor. 15-29).

Elder Richard D. Bradshaw said Christ was accused of being a

sinner, and finally was crucified. Now we worship Him, and by Him we receive life eternal. The scripture says that the gospel should be taken from the earth (Amos 8). This did come to pass, and men since have tried to reform it; but we claim a restoration, with its pure and simple doctrines, its priesthood and authority. The world will not believe in revelation; but where does the scripture deny it?

President Hyrum M. Smith expressed joy in having the privilege to sustain the authorities of the Church. Said that it was the duty of every Latter-day Saint to sustain the servants of the Lord as long as they do not fall into transgression. Every person should think for himself, and develop his inner self. Christ never persecuted, or tried to force men to believe on Him; but led the way. Persecution comes from Satan. The people of Christ never force their religion on anyone. The elders are here to declare the restoration of the gospel.

Singing, "For the strength of the hills, we bless Thee." Prayer by Elder Frederick J. Bradshaw.

The evening session commenced at 6:30 by singing, "We thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet." Prayer was offered by President Hyrum M. Smith.

President Cyril Duffin said two plans were originally proposed for the redemption of mankind. One was submitted by Satan, the other by Christ. That of Jesus Christ was accepted, therefore, He became the author of salvation. If we expect exaltation in God's kingdom, we must enter through the gate (Jno. 10: 1-2). Exhorted the saints to earnestly contend for the faith delivered to them, and live lives worthy of emulation.

A duet was rendered by Sisters Lilly Andrews and Polly Silvertson.

President E. Taft Benson said after he returned to Zion he, no doubt, would long to see his friends in England. Said the world, in reviling Joseph Smith, was proving him a true prophet, as he said his name would be held for good or evil the world over; also showed that many other prophecies uttered by him have been literally fulfilled. Brought forth evidence showing that the ethnological societies of America have discovered Egyptian hieroglyphics in the ancient American inscriptions, thus corroborating the truth of the statement made by Joseph Smith that the Book of Mormon was written in Egyptian.

President Hyrum M. Smith spoke upon the same subject, referring to other predictions of the Prophet Joseph and their fulfillment.

Singing, "O'er the gloomy hills of darkness." Prayer was offered by Elder Lawrence J. Clements.

On Saturday, October 4th, 1913, Presidents Hyrum M. Smith and E. Taft Benson met with the elders in two spirited Priesthood meetings.

RACHEL PYNE DUFFIN, Clerk of Conference.

THE UNCHANGEABLE GOSPEL OF CHRIST.

MAN cannot by his own searching find out God. It should require no argument to establish this truth in the minds of all Christian believers, yet there are some who feel that the things of God can be understood by the wisdom and learning of men, and there are some who have so far departed from the true spirit of early Christianity as to think that many of the simple principles of the gospel that were taught, preached and practiced by Christ and His apostles, were only instituted for the express benefit of the few humble saints who accepted Christ and Him crucified in the meridian of time.

In the midst of these frail arguments the Latter-day Saints boldly come forth with a testimony that if it took faith in God, repentance, baptism by immersion for the remission of sins, and the laying on of hands by one holding authority for the reception of the Holy Ghost to save men in ancient times, then nothing short of these same principles will save and exalt us to-day.

It would require no more to save a person eighteen hundred years ago over in Palestine than it will in any other land at the present time. But, says the objector, baptism, and some of the extraordinary gifts of the gospel were only given as signs to bring people to Christ. They were necessary in order to draw men away from their long preconceived notions, and the carnal commandments of Moses. This argument will not hold good, however, for, if it has any value, why is it that some miraculous signs are not given to-day in order to bring the infidel, the atheist, and the heathen peoples to a knowledge of the Son of Man?

Placing man upon his own reasoning powers alone, knowing, as he does, that God is the same yesterday, to-day and forever, aside from any scriptural proof at all, he would say: "I must submit, I must be obedient to the whole of the gospel of Christ as taught by Him and His ancient apostles."

The reason the Latter-day Saints hold so earnestly to these principles is because the validity of these doctrines has been revealed from God to man, even to the Prophet Joseph Smith. Their observance is just as indispensable for the exaltation of man as is the application of Newton's law of gravitation in keeping the worlds in our planetary system from interfering one with another.

It is true that for centuries past these irrevocable laws of Christ's kingdom have been thought superfluous; but there are no grounds upon which to base such an argument. God has never set any of them aside, either by His own voice, or by inspiration through His servants the prophets, and until He does so, they will be binding on all mankind alike.

The only inference or conclusion we can draw from this is that the false teachings to which reference has been made, have

originated in man, and have been handed down from father to son by way of tradition, until now by many they are looked upon as truths. But what constitutes a truth? We are told by revelation that a corrupt tree cannot bring forth good fruit, neither can an impure fountain bring forth pure and living water, consequently, anything that disagrees with the plan of the all-wise Creator and His revelations to men, cannot conform to His eternal truths, and naturally should not be counted as such, though the whole world should so believe them.

The following question is often asked the Latter-day Saints: "If you believe in the early Christian faith, why is it that all your baptized believers do not speak immediately in tongues and prophesy as did Cornelius and his household (Acts 10: 46), or the disciples at Ephesus (Acts 19: 6), and perhaps in a number of other instances? This question, however, is not asked because our belief is faulty, but rather because men are continually going against the counsel of Peter (II. Peter 1: 20, 21) by placing private interpretations upon the scriptures instead of relying, as they should, upon the very thing which they condemn, that is, the gift of the Holy Ghost.

There is no passage in holy writ which leads us to believe that these gifts immediately follow baptism; but we are told that we will receive blessings from this Comforter according to the will of God, and our righteousness. It is in this case just like it is with every other blessing, much rests upon us, and if we are obedient we shall receive the Comforter, which will guide us into all truth. Some will receive one gift, and some another, as Paul reminds the Corinthian saints (I. Cor. 12: 8-11), saying: "To one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith * * * to another the gifts of healing," and other gifts. In I. Cor. 12: 28-30, after Paul has again enumerated the different officers and gifts that were in the church, he asks the question if all were apostles or prophets, and if all spoke in new tongues, or if all had the gift of healing? etc., intimating that each person did not receive every gift; but different persons would receive different blessings, or, it might be, that none of these gifts enumerated would be enjoyed with visible manifestations of their presence, but others only might be received, as we learn in the epistle to the Galatians (5: 22, 23), where Paul enumerates different fruits of the spirit, such as love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, etc. If the earnest searchers after truth would throw the searchlight of investigation upon the lives of the Latter-day Saints, they would not only find the extraordinary gifts of the Holy Ghost enjoyed by them, but they would find that their actions, from the organization of the Church up to the present time give proof of this fact, namely: That they are a God-fearing, intellectual and peaceful class of people. They have passed through more opposition to make others happy than any other people on the

earth; and although they testify to the world that there are many more truths in their religion than can be found elsewhere, still they humble themselves and certify with Paul of old (Gal. 1: 11, 12) that the gospel which is preached by them is not of man, neither have they received it of man; but it is the revelation of Jesus Christ unto the different prophets who have stood at its head.

And to those honest souls in the world who are searching after truth, and who have thus far in life been letting their salvation rest upon some obscure passage of scripture contained within the lids of the Bible, or upon the traditions of men, we sincerely desire them to awake, examine into their purpose in life, and put to confusion the doctrines of men by accepting the revealed gospel of Christ.

We are living in a day when all men should be men of intellect, free thinkers, and searchers after truth let it be found where it may. Truth seekers should empty their vessels of the muddy waters of tradition, and refill them at the fountain of truth—God's word.

Birmingham. WARREN S. TEW.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD.

Baptism.—On October 4th, 1913, a baptismal service was held at Ipswich (Norwich conference), when one soul was added to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Elder J. Arthur Wood officiated.

Farewell Social.—At Liverpool (Liverpool conference), on Friday evening, October 3rd, 1913, a farewell social was tendered President E. Taft Benson. The program consisted of songs, recitations and musical selections, which were rendered in a very interesting manner. A suitable token of esteem was presented to President Benson by the saints and friends of the branch. All present wished him Godspeed on his homeward journey.

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